

# ISMS receives kudos from Hanford Advisory Board

*Karen Welsh, Fluor Hanford*

"We are from different companies, with different scopes of work, but we are all committed to employee safety, the safety of the public, and the safety of the environment."

That introduction by Jess Hinman, safety project manager for Bechtel Hanford, set the tone for the June 6 Hanford Advisory Board session on the Integrated Safety Management System, known as ISMS, and the Voluntary Protection Program, or VPP. An eight-member panel comprising representatives of Fluor Hanford, CH2M HILL, Bechtel Hanford and Bechtel National provided perspectives on ISMS and safety practices at the site.

ISMS is based on integrating safety principles into management and work practices at all levels, so that missions are accomplished while protecting the public, the workers and the environment. These ISMS principles, in conjunction with VPP, have brought clear roles and responsibilities into the workplace, along with strong worker involvement.

"From a craft point of view, I have never been in a place where they have had such an aggressive safety program as we have here at Hanford," said Phil Williams of Bechtel National. "With ISMS, management comes to the workers to solicit ideas for performing work. We are actually able to participate in finding solutions."

ISMS and VPP bring workers and managers together in "owning" safety and adopting it as a



**John Jeskey (center) of HAMTC addresses members of the Hanford Advisory Board at last month's meeting.**

*Continued on page 8.*

## ISMS receives kudos from Hanford Advisory Board, cont.

part of the work culture. Dave Jackson, Fluor Hanford manager of Occupational Health and Safety, called ISMS a “win-win-win” situation in dealing with issues and safety. “It’s a win for management, a win for employees, and a win for the Department of Energy,” he said. “VPP and ISMS bring an open microphone to the field. We are seeing that this open communication is working out on the Hanford Site, and it’s working well.”

Members of the HAB commended the Hanford contractors and DOE for raising the bar on safety in the workplace. “We are delighted to hear about the progress with the safety climate out at the Hanford Site as it is very important to the Hanford Advisory Board,” said board member Norma Jean Germond. “We know that you are working toward improving that climate all the time and toward having no accidents on site.”

A significant component of the success of ISMS and VPP has been the “stop-work” policy. Anytime work is being performed, any person who has a concern about whether the job is being performed in a safe manner has the authority to stop the work immediately. In addition, that person is also involved in finding solutions to performing the work more safely.

A HAB member asked whether that policy truly is in place. “The stop-work policy at Fluor Hanford, CH2M HILL, Bechtel and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory is very much in place and has been for a number of year,” answered John Jeskey, a Hanford Atomic Metal Trades Council safety representative. “It has provided a way for all employees to react to potentially unsafe working conditions.” ■